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SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2018 JSOnline.com PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

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Health chief out over lead tests

Thousands of city kids did not get follow-up care after positive tests

Mary Spicuzza and Mark Johnson
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK–WISCONSIN

Milwaukee Health Commissioner Bevan Baker left his job at City Hall as word broke Friday that his department failed to follow up and provide services to the families of thousands of children who had tested positive for lead.

Baker

Mayor Tom Barrett said he had identified "mismanagement" in the health department that had left him "deeply disturbed" and "angry."

"I expect more," Barrett said at a Friday news conference. "Our residents expect more."

The mayor said Baker resigned Thursday.

"Late yesterday Bevan Baker and I agreed it is time for new leadership at the health department, and I accepted his resignation," Barrett said.

The mayor said he asked former health commissioner Paul Nannis to serve as interim department administrator. A national search will be launched soon, Barrett added.

Each year, 25,000 Milwaukee children are tested for lead, and 3,000 on average come back with elevated lead levels.

Used in water pipes until the 1920s and in the solder connecting copper piping until the 1980s, lead can flake into drinking water, damaging a child's growth and ability to learn.

Tens of thousands of Milwaukee homes may contain lead paint, and many city houses built before 1951 are believed to receive water from street mains through lead pipes known as laterals.

An activist group known as the Freshwater for Life Action Coalition has been been pushing city officials to do more to combat Milwaukee's lead problems.

In a joint statement, Milwaukee aldermen expressed outrage about the

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Snell's hoops loyalty began with mom

Basketball prodigy's mother worked two jobs while keeping kids safe in L.A.

Lori Nickel Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK - WISCONSIN

Bucks guard Tony Snell is averaging 8.1 points a game this season. RICK WOOD / MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

Tony Snell's teammates break his heart a little every day. They just don't know it.

He's looking at them, ready to talk, ready to share, ready to just be in their presence. He is a man of few words but a conversation with him means he's locked in, studying your body language and the expression in your eyes.

But they're checked out.

"I go into the locker room and everybody's got their head down on their phone the whole time," said Snell. "I'm the only one who's got my head up.

"It's the saddest thing ever. Technology is the worst. Everybody walks like this (Snell staggers with his head down), not even paying attention. It's the worst thing ever."

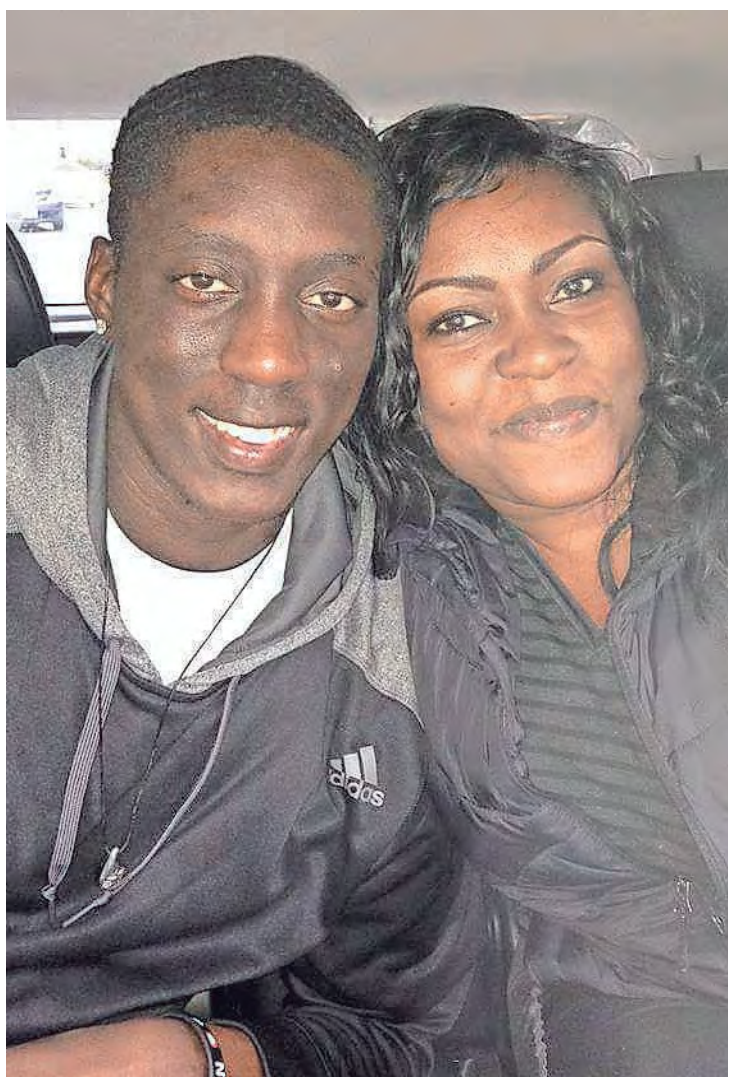
Could you even imagine walking around the streets of Watts in Los Angeles as a young boy like that? Unaware? Unguarded? It's unconscionable to Snell, but also, it's rather disappointing.

What could be more interesting on that phone than what they've got right here? A dream job, a great life and the chance to go to battle for each other every single day?

No. This is it. This is everything he's worked for his entire life. And these Milwaukee Bucks? They're family.

And family ... *is everything*.

Sherika Brown used to drive her son to Skid Row, the poorest parts of Los Angeles. And then she would drive him to Beverly


Tony Snell with mom, Sherika Brown. SHERIKA BROWN

See SNELL, Page 10A

Trump lawyer brokered $130K payment to porn star, report says

Jeff Horwitz
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump's personal lawyer brokered a $130,000 payment to a porn actress to prevent her from publicly discussing an alleged sexual encounter with Trump, according to a report Friday in The Wall Street Journal.

Daniels

Trump met Stephanie Clifford, who goes by the name Stormy Daniels in films, at a golf event in 2006 — a year after Trump's marriage to his wife, Melania. According to the Journal's report, Clifford began talking with ABC News in the fall of 2016 for a story involving an alleged relationship with Trump, but reached a $130,000 deal a month before the election, which prevented her from going public.

Trump's longtime attorney Michael Cohen arranged for the payment through Clifford's lawyer, Keith Davidson, the Journal reported.

Clifford had also been in discussions with the online magazine Slate, The New York Times reported Friday. Jacob Weisberg, editor-in-chief of the Slate

See PAYMENT, Page 6A

Paul Ryan: Speaker calls Trump's comments on immigration "very unfortunate" and "unhelpful." **3A**

DNR plans to hike fees at popular campgrounds

Less-visited parks will see cuts; changes expected to start Feb. 15

Lee Bergquist Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
USA TODAY NETWORK – WISCONSIN

The Department of Natural Resources is rolling out plans for a new pricing system for camping and daily admission at state parks that will mean higher rates at the most popular campgrounds and price cuts at parks not as popular.

The DNR is raising fees for camping at 38 properties at various times this year and is cutting fees at 36 others. The biggest increases would be $7 per day and the biggest cuts would be $5 per day.

Also, the daily entrance fees at three popular parks — Devil's Lake, Peninsula and Willow River —

See FEES, Page 2A

Zac Brown Band to play Alpine Valley
The theater will be back in business with two shows by the band Aug. 11 and 12. **2A**

Bucks, Marquette lose
Durant leads Warriors past Milwaukee, 108-94; Butler tops MU, 94-83. **1B**

Weather
High 15° Low 6°
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